

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: T-Storms	78 61
Fri: T-Storms	80 59
Sat: T-Storms	82 63
Sun: T-Storms	82 63
Mon: T-Storms	79 61
Tue: T-Storms	78 61
Wed: T-Storms	80 61



Upstream Elevation Predicted 06/04/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,925.77
Lake Nottely	1,776.37
Blue Ridge	1,687.57

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## MECHS graduates 44 seniors

By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

**Blue Ridge** - Seniors from Union County and Towns County high schools gave an anticipatory hats off to Mountain Education Charter High School as graduation proceedings commenced for the Class of 2014 on May 29.

The processional began with Pomp and Circumstance as the seniors lined up to sit down front and center before Co-Union Site administrator Roy Perren.

"I want to extend a special welcome to our guests--parents, grandparents, extended family and friends who assembled here this afternoon to help us celebrate the graduation of the Union Site and Fannin Site Mountain Education Charter High School students," Perren greeted. "We've grown so large the past few years that we're having four graduation ceremonies. These diplomas not only reflect the hard work and determination of these students, but the support of their families, many organizations, local businesses, and the



MECHS staff and governing board," said Perren.

Holly Diane Davis, Union Site's High Honor Graduate as well as Dual Enrollment Scholarship recipient, who held the title for the highest Grade Point Average this year from Union County, spoke of diligence and courage.

"Today would not be possible without the hard work and dedication from all of the students, teachers and parents, and, most importantly, the guiding hand of God," said Davis. "I'm honored to be representing the Mountain Education Charter High School Graduating Class of 2014 not only for today, but forever. As we walk

across this stage, we're not only proving to everyone what we're capable of, but we're proving to ourselves that we can accomplish anything we set our minds on."

Davis, who is going to attend North Georgia Technical College majoring in the medical field, explained how graduating is not recess.

"For some, graduating high school is just something everyone does. But, graduating isn't mandatory. It's something you have to strive for and persevere through rough times. Many give up, but only a special few strive for their goal to the finish. For nothing is too high for a man or a woman to reach when finding His confidence. And no cross is too heavy to bare if we remember why we grow. Tonight our lights will shine brighter than ever as we walk across the stage and accept one of the most important pieces of paper in our lives."

Fannin County Site Administrator Lori Chastain reminded some and educated many for the first time that MECHS didn't start out big

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## Homeowners to meet with Harrah's

Members, as well as the community, are invited to attend a potluck dinner meeting at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 13 with the Towns County Homeowners Association at the Towns County Senior Center.

A representative from Harrah's Valley River Casino and Hotel, now being built in Murphy, NC, will be speaking, along with Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, and Paul Hansen, curator for the Hamilton Gardens.

The meeting also will include the election of several officers for the homeowners association.

The slate of officers and board members that went out to the membership is as follows: Ben Lilly, President, Wes Lerdon, Vice President, Joan Crothers, Secretary, and Jan Kowalsky, Treasurer. New Directors up for election are Dean Owens and Don Berry for a two-year term. Jim Hancock and Noel Turner are incumbents and are not up for election.

Members may nominate anyone else from the floor.

The dinner meetings have always been favorites with homeowners association members and other interested members of the community because of the great cooks in the county.

Please whip up your special dish to go along with the ham, chicken tenders and barbecue that the TCHA will provide, along with tea and water.

Call Ina Kozesky, (706) 896-2995, who will be coordinating the side dishes so we have a good combination of salads, veggies, and desserts and have an accurate head count for the meeting.

The TVA draw down on Lake Chatuge later this year because of work on the High Bridge in Clay County, NC also will be addressed. This should be a very informative meeting for all residents, so the homeowners association hopes to see you at the new Senior Center, 6 p.m. on Friday, June 13th.

## Terry Reece remembers Hub

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

**Choestoe** - Terry Reece spoke fondly of his uncle Byron Herbert "Hub" Reece on Saturday.

Terry Reece was the keynote speaker at the 11th Annual Reece Society Meeting at the Reece Farm and Heritage Center.

Though only 10 years old when his uncle died, Terry Reece remembered the humorous side of Hub Reece.

"He had a dog named Dionysus," Terry Reece remembered. "I told him I didn't really like that name, could we call him Bullet? That was a better name for a dog. He told me that might confuse him since he was already used to the name Dionysus."

"Dionysus was what amounted to a Russian Wolf Hound," Terry Reece said. "What I wished I had said was

## Dive team recovers victim from Chatuge

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

A 34-year-old Hayesville man was recovered from Lake Chatuge by Towns County Fire & Rescue's Water Rescue and Recovery Team on Thursday.

Jason Bradley, a Towns County native, dove from the High Bridge on North Carolina 175 in Clay County, Towns County authorities said.

Towns County received a mutual aid call from Clay

County, NC to help with the recovery of the victim.

The dive team entered the water at 11:09 p.m. and within 20 minutes recovered the victim, Towns County authorities said.

Funeral services were held Monday, at the Bethabara Baptist Church in Hayesville, NC.

The Rev. Curtis Ledford and the Rev. Clark Moss officiated. Burial took place in the Church Cemetery.

## Trap shoot on Friday

Friday, June 6th, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and the Chatuge Gun Club are hosting the Sixth Annual Fundraiser for the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes.

Along with the traditional trap shooting there will be a turkey shoot this year, as well as food, raffles and door prizes. All the proceeds go directly to benefit the children of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes and,

because the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes is a public charity, any donation to the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes qualifies for the highest tax deduction allowed by law.

You do not have to participate in the trap shoot to participate in the other events of the day. Please come out and join Sheriff Clinton and have a great time and raise money for a great cause.

## Chatuge a thrill to visitors

By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The weather held out a warm welcome to kids who could barely hold in their excitement last Thursday at the Towns County Beach as volunteers, church groups and athletes took to the water for fun in the sun and delicious provisions under pavilions.

D2R, which stands for Day to Remember, was certainly one to commit to memory for many kids.

Memorial Day kicks off the summer for many in the area, and parties from local ski club Liquid Feet partnered with *In His Wakes*, a very distinctive and highly outgoing non-profit organization and ministry program that began in 2003 by founder Kristi Overton Johnson.

Within this ministry, Johnson, as well as fellow volunteers and mentors, ensure children of all ages and backgrounds safely experience outdoor water sports.



Christian teachings come to pass throughout the day's proceedings, inspiring courage and wisdom in those present, striving to instill purpose on the surface and within.

"Georgia's been our first stop," said Emily Copeland-Durham, a Colorado native and professional wakeboarder for more than 16 years whose tal-

ent and perseverance garnered her gold at the X Games in 2002, also holding first place titles in the women's U.S. Open, World Cup and U.S. Masters competitions.

"We're in the RV until the end of August," Copeland explained, referencing

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## Hiawassee Park craft show a weekend hit



By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Artists of many mediums met with a room full of patrons and inspirations in the clubhouse of Hiawassee Park at the annual Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday.

Oil and water can mix--along with wood, paper, glass and fabric to create beautiful handcrafted ornaments, lamps, pots, sculptures, and paintings to create a room filled with natural materials from the area as well as all over the globe.

"We made a practice of going to the Amish country, in Ohio. There's a little hardware store out there that you wouldn't believe with nothing but exotic wood. You could put two Walgreens in this hardware store. I mean it's huge," said Walter Berg, a retired lawyer and local resident of Hiawassee. "There's an exotic wood place over in Franklin, NC, that we buy from, too."

Berg's wooden pieces, some non-traditional lamps, others bowls and dangling ornaments infused with conch shells, are akin to puzzles as he explained his creative process as well as physical workmanship of one particular present-day confetti lamp summoning the look of something ancient.

"Each of these layers has twelve different segments in it."

Berg explained, referring to the lamp. "Altogether this bowl has 181 segments. They have to all be cut out, fitted together, glued and then turned on the lathe to get the shape," he continued, describing the tools used to reform the wood.

Just looking at the wood, one would almost look past its individuality.

"This happens to be curly maple," he said, speaking of one in particular.

"This is called Leopard Wood," he said of another. "And that's cocobolo rosewood from Madagascar."

"I never make two alike," he said as he held the cocobolo, as it's shine and luster took kindly to the light.

Blanketing the tables to the left of Berg were vibrant hand-stitched quilts and lively pigmented stained glass. The artists, husband and wife artists Ursula and Alan MacDougall, who shared their love of crafts in different ways.

"We get along better that way," joked Ursula MacDougall, "I'm at one end of

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## Reece, Marshall Graduation speeches

In last week's edition of the Towns County Herald, there was some confusion about the speech made by Valedictorian Kaila Reece. There also was the omission of the speech made by Historian Courtney Marshall. This week, the Towns County Herald gives readers both of those speeches. We lead off with Kaila Reece, and follow with Courtney Marshall.

**Kaila Reece**  
Before I begin, there are three things that you should know about me.

1. I'm awkward
2. I'm not proficient in public speaking
3. I'm an incredibly emotional person.

So this could be quite interesting for all of us. I would like to take a moment to simply say "thank you" to all of the staff and administration here at Towns County High School.

You guys do an outstanding job of creating a safe and



Kaila Reece

inviting environment. It's been a blessing to have had the opportunity to grow up in a school system where teachers really take the time to help encourage us as not only students, but also as people.

I have no doubt that we are well prepared for the next phase of our lives.



Courtney Marshall

In the song *It's Your Life*, by Francesca Battistelli, she sings, *It's your life. Whatcha gonna do? The world is watching you. Everyday, the choices you make say what you are and who your heart beats for.*

Whenever my friends and

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